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SUPERINTENDENT MAXWELL'S REPORT.

THE REPORT of City Superintendent Maxwell so far as it concerns certain proposed reforms in the school system is full of wisdom born of experience and ripened in reflection. It turns an X-ray light upon a good many suggested innovations which in themselves appear excellent, but which reveal defects under the searching illumination.

To the demand for three elective courses in the seventh and eighth grades he objects that pupils complete the sixth grade generally when about twelve years old, an age when they are unfitted to elect studies for themselves, and, as the Superintendent adds, "Parents are seldom able to advise them wisely." In our efforts at "simplification" and in our short school year he points out there is danger of cutting down the curriculum "to such an extent there would not be enough left to furnish the mind with that knowledge every one should possess." To the advocates of a larger degree of freedom to the school principals, he says their arguments would have greater weight if "they could show that principals have as a rule used with wisdom and due diligence the freedom they already possess." Finally, there is the recommendation that it would be better for both pupils and teachers if the long summer vacation were shortened to one month, as in Europe.

These are plain words, but they touch the issue to the quick. Changes are not always improvements. It is sometimes well to listen to the counsel of the actor as well as to that of the critic.

THE LESSON OF THE NEW AMENDMENT.

AFTER a thirty-year campaign of education on the need of an income tax as a part of our national fiscal system, The World has the gratification of finding the victory won and the imposition of taxation on wealth, instead of on poverty, virtually assured. The process of education has been so thoroughly worked out during the long campaign that the new tax will be approved in principle at least by almost universal consent. That much is made evident by the vote on the amendment to the Constitution. After all manner of delays and halts and hesitations and evasions, the politicians have had at last to obey the will of the people.

The success of the advocates of the income tax over the hostility of plutocracy, the sullen opposition of political bosses, and a decision of the Supreme Court, shows that to carry out any resolute will of the people there is no need for recall of judges, nor for referendums, nor for any other erratic or revolutionary departure from our established form of constitutional government. A slowly won success achieved by reason is better than a swift one attained through appeals to passion and to prejudice. It is to be noted, moreover, that while this is the first amendment to the Constitution in forty-three years, it will not be long before others follow. But none of them will be revolutionary. They will amend—not destroy.

CABBAGE, RICE AND CORN BEER.

THE announcement that the United States Government has brought before the courts a test case for the purpose of getting a decision as to what is meant by "beer" will interest few people outside the breweries. We have long since learned that neither the Pure Food Board in drawing a bill, nor Congress in debating it, nor the President in considering it, nor the Secretary of Agriculture in enforcing it, ever knows what pure food or drink is. But the public will not be indifferent to the disclosures that much of the stuff that is put up in bottles labelled "an exclusive malt and hop brew" is made of cabbages, rice, sugar and various "corn products."

Fortunately the burning thirst for beer is still far from us in a springtime distant by six weeks, according to the sage who invented the ground hog lore. Therefore there is time to consider before making resolutions. But no man likes the fear that in quaffing a stein of nut-brown brew he may be putting a cabbage head on himself. Neither does the American like corn converted into beer when it is stiffer for whiskey. And how will the Prohibitionist like the thought that what he has so often denounced as "demon drink" may after all be but rice soup made thin?

THE LESSON OF THE HOUSTON HIPPODROME.

FROM reports made on the causes of the panic in the Houston Hippodrome it appears the exits were not only legal, but were quite adequate for purposes of safety under normal conditions. The cause of the crush and disaster was that a crowd of people were waiting at the doorway to enter as soon as the audience was dismissed. When the panic crowd was rushing out, the expectant outsiders began to force their way in. Then came the usual street mob gathering at every sort of excitement, and confusion was made worse.

It would appear from these facts that in all continuous performance theatres or like places of amusement, where one audience waits to enter as soon as another is dismissed, the entrance and the exit should be by separate doorways. The innovation would probably not entail any very heavy cost in comparison with the cost of the building. There are some eight hundred places of entertainment of this kind in the city. Many of them are said to be in unsuitable structures, but all of them may be presumed to have met the requirements of existing ordinances. Yet so long as one crowd tries to enter through the same door that another is leaving there is always danger even if there be no fire to start a panic.

The Day's Good Stories

A Hard, Hard World.
A GROUP of hoboes waiting for their coffee to boil in a ten-cent can were telling of their hard luck experiences.
"I've had worse luck than anybody," said one of them, challenging, after listening to the others' tales of woe. "Once I had to sleep from Wilson's Hotel to Park Avenue on top of a flat-iron loaded with hard coal."
"And what do you think?" he went on.
"They say on the west coast that pulled in from the same direction was loaded with soft coal!"
—Buckley's Magazine.

Man's Preference.
MISS LILLIAN HILL, lecturing on eugenics to a class in Cleveland, said:
"It is a good thing for the human race that beauty counts for more than intellect when it comes to love. Intellect too often means nervous—insane—hypochondria."
"Yes, it is a good thing for the human race that, as an old maid from Venice put it rather bitterly:
"Men prefer a well-dressed girl to a well-educated one." —Philadelphia Express.

Why Not?
Copyright, 1913, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World).

By Maurice Ketten

The Jarr Family
By Roy L. McDowell

Mr. Jarr Gets That Raise at Last Thanks to Everyone He Knows.
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Conquests of Constance
By Alma Woodward

Why?

"Well, I got it for you, old man," said Johnson, the cashier, as Mr. Jarr came out of the private sanctum of the head of the firm and passed the cashier's cage. "The old man put up a holler, but I said to him: 'We've got to meet the proposition our strongest competitor has made to Mr. Jarr. We can't afford to lose a man who carries the accounts he does.' And the boss had to agree with me."

"That's nice of you, Johnson," said Mr. Jarr casually. "I may quit anyway, at that."

"Don't do anything rash!" counseled the cashier. "I'll see what I can do to increase the raise. Leave it to me!"

"Take my tip, Mr. Jarr, we've either got to recognize substantially the value of Ed Jarr to this firm or he's going to duck and leave us flat!"

"When was this?" asked Mr. Jarr, who had never known of Jenkins going in to see the boss—unless it was to complain of somebody else's mistakes.

"Just the other day," said Jenkins, smiling. "The facts are, the boss asked my opinion. He wasn't very strong for the raise thing, for I suspect he knows who works and who soldiers around this establishment!" (Mr. Jenkins indicated he was one of the former and Mr. Jarr was one of the latter.) "But I reminded the boss you were a man with a family."

"The shipping clerk also took an occasion to stop by Mr. Jarr's desk and hint that the betterment of that gentleman's fortunes were due to the solidarity of the shipping department 'speaking up for a pal,' and also in the friendly offices in aiding the shipping blunders and other errors of Mr. Jarr and the rest of the establishment."

"We gave out in the shipping department to the work and correct the mistakes," added the shipping clerk, "and you guys in here get the credit and the big money."

"Then he borrowed two dollars of Mr. Jarr and went his way."

Getting the word of Mr. Jarr's getting a raise in salary. In fact, Mr. Jarr, the butcher, had heard it from Mrs. Clara, Mr. Jarr's maid, Mrs. Mudridge-Smith's maid, Mrs. Mudridge-Smith regarding the raise her husband had given Mr. Jarr as a personal act of philanthropy on her part. Mr. Jarr had told Gus.

"Well, I hear you got a raise," said Gus, coming out of his place as Mr. Jarr was passing. "I guess you will be riding around in your own taxicab next, what?"

Mr. Jarr intimated he would still travel by strap in the subway.

"Well, I don't know but what you are right," said Gus. "Soon as some people get a dollar and a half a day when they used to get only a dollar ten they buy a lemonade. Then something gets wrong with the cabdriver in it and that costs a lot of money. Then they buy a lot of inward tubes, and they break worse than they were before they got the raise."

"Anyhow, I'm glad you ain't so foolish. But don't get the big head and start to boasting. Come in and have a drink. And remember what I say—see you the biggest!"

Women Who Helped Build America

By Albert Payson Terhune

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No. 5.—ABIGAIL ADAMS; a "Power Behind the Throne."

THE good folk of Weymouth, Mass., were pained to hear that their minister's daughter, Abigail Smith, had fallen in love with a young and not especially promising lawyer named John Adams. Lawyers were in none too high repute just then in the prim New England community, and as Adams was the son of a poor farmer he was considered no sort of a match for the daughter of so exalted a personage as the local minister.

Abigail's father was as violently opposed to the match, at first, as were the rest. One Sunday, in the pulpit, he glared first at Abigail and then at Adams, and then gave out the following Scripture text for his morning's sermon:

"My daughter is grievously tormented with a devil."

When his elder daughter, Mary, married to his liking the clergyman further emphasized the difference between the two girls by preaching from the text: "Mary hath chosen the better part." But his opposition was at last overcome, and in 1764 the twenty-year-old Abigail was duly married to John Adams, nine years her senior. The couple had four children, of whom the eldest, John Quincy, was one day to be President of the United States, like his father. It was the only instance in history of a father and son both being elected to our country's Presidency.

Abigail was for years forced to toil unceasingly, as became the wife of a poor country lawyer with a household of children. But in her spare moments she found time not only to advance herself but to give her husband wise advice as to the shaping of the dawn of the Revolution. To her wisdom Adams owed much of his own success and advancement at that time, and the unborn nation was indebted to that same wisdom for the country's Presidency.

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The High Cost of Living And How to Reduce It.

By Madison C. Peters.

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XI.—NEED OF ADEQUATE TERMINAL AND MARKETS.

NEW YORK CITY has but four public markets and no market policy. The Jefferson Market, at Greenwich and Sixth avenues, is the only market contiguous to a residential population.

Washington Market is of service mainly to the New Jersey commuter. The population it was originally intended to serve has entirely moved away from the section, and yet its gross sales in 1911 amounted to nearly \$1,000,000.

Cansevoort Market is an open square and, though designed for a retail market, sells to dealers. About 300 farmers frequent it.

Delancey street has a small market under the Williamsburg Bridge, serving fish and vegetables. It has no cold storage and is only a pushcart peddlers' market; and things are sold cheap.

New York City needs about 200 good, public food distributing markets. Such markets, strategically located for the economic and satisfactory distribution of food, would cost about \$20,000 each, exclusive of the land. With the land it would cost perhaps as much more, or a total of \$2,000,000, and this investment would save the people \$60,000,000 a year.

Surely the possibility of such savings, or even one-third of them, deserves the most serious consideration of all lovers of their kind, and of the municipal and State authorities.

Such markets could organize themselves for joint buying and joint delivery. A terminal market system, under municipal control, is the need of the hour for every city, for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer.

Public markets pay everywhere. Living in Baltimore is cheaper, and better perhaps, than in any other city in the United States, yet the city makes an annual profit on its markets of \$50,000. New Orleans clears up \$70,000, Washington \$7,000, Buffalo \$44,000, Cleveland \$25,507, Nashville \$48,200, Rochester \$14,721 and Indianapolis \$17,220.

The Municipal Market Idea.

The municipal markets in the great cities of Europe keep the living down and pay the cities well for conducting them.

The Smithfield Meat Market, in London, covering eight acres and costing \$1,940,000, last year brought in in rents \$257,920, and on this "people's market" there was a profit of about \$100,000.

London's famous fish market, administered by the city corporation, built at a cost of \$1,600,000, returned last year \$24,455 in rents. The 194,477 tons of fish were bought at less than one-third of what we pay, and yet the city profited to the extent of \$40,000 in this fish trade.

On the entire municipal market enterprise London city made a profit of \$155,000. Covent Garden, London's great flower, fruit and vegetable market, is owned by the Duke of Bedford, having been his family for hundreds of years. The present fruit hall was built at a cost of \$170,000 and the flower building cost \$215,000.

Birmingham, since 1905, has expended on its markets, for improvements and extensions, \$2,156,362, and the profits since then have paid off more than half the indebtedness.

Liverpool makes an average annual profit on its markets of \$80,000. Since 1868 the city of Manchester has profited by its markets \$2,250,000. Its fish market alone yields an annual profit of \$10,000 in addition to heavy extension payments in recent years.

Dublin makes a profit of \$14,000 on its food market and \$12,000 on the cattle market, while Edinburgh clears up \$15,000 on its municipal markets.

Berlin, notwithstanding constant improvements and extensions of its superb municipal market system, makes a profit of \$125,000 a year.

Frankfurt, in addition to its covered markets, which date back to 1570, has a paved and fenced square which since 1907 has been used as an open market, where stands are rented for five cents a day.

Munich's municipal market brought an income last year of \$105,000. The city spent \$10,100 on new produce halls recently, which are the finest in the world.

Paris' Halles Centrales, costing \$10,000,000, returns \$2,100,000, of which \$1,000,000 is the city's annual profit.

Vienna's forty-five markets yield the city an annual profit of \$60,000, while Budapest keeps the price of foodstuffs down to normal levels and profits by its markets over \$100,000 a year.

For a "Market Commission."

Write to our Governor, pledged to help reduce the high cost of living, to appoint a Market Commission, with power to act, composed of such men as John J. Dillon, W. C. Osborne, Clara A. Tuttle, L. J. Lippmann, and such women as Mrs. Elmer Black and Mrs. Julian Heath, and save the people of all our cities and towns at least 25 per cent. of their living cost.

The problem is more pressing than rapid transit. We have neglected the most important branch of civil enterprise. Organize our markets; let us have a terminal market system worthy of our hour and our people; let us have a system in the interests of the health and happiness of all our people; let us have the help it would give our municipal finances—let us rally for a modern market system worthy of our enthusiasm for humanity.